

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000100130012-7

Flier's Body Is Returned From Cuba

CPYRGHT

The body of Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr., whose plane was lost on a reconnaissance flight over Cuba, was returned to his homeland last night.

The Air Force major's flag-draped coffin, escorted by an honor guard of seven men, arrived at Andrews Air Force Base aboard one of the four planes reserved for President Kennedy's use.

The United States and the United Nations arranged for the return of the body. It was taken to Havana's airfield by the Swiss Embassy, which has represented the United States in Cuba since diplomatic relations were severed last year.

From Havana the remains were flown to Miami in a Pan American Airways C-54. There the honor guard, commanded by Col. Richard S. Wilson, transferred the body to the White House plane.

The major's body was taken to the base hospital upon arrival here. After positive identification by Air Force pathologists, the body will be flown today to Donaldson Air Force Base, S. C. Funeral services will be held in Greenville, the family home.

Anderson was stationed in Del Rio, Tex.

It was widely believed that Anderson was shot down while flying a high-altitude U-2 flight over Cuban missile bases. But the Defense Department never confirmed this. On Oct. 27 the department announced only that

the flier was missing and presumed lost.

Arrangements for the return of his body were made after Acting U. N. Secretary

General U Thant visited Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to work out an agreement on withdrawal of Russian missiles.

Thant said the Cuban government had agreed to re-

turn the body for "humanitarian reasons."

The Defense Department said the time of services and detailed arrangements will be

made after consultation with the flier's family. Major Anderson's survivors include his wife, Frances Jane; two sons, Rudolf III, 5, and James B., 3, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Anderson.

CPYRGHT